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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Hans Hammer

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EXAMINER

TAPOLCAI, WILLIAM E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3744

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

1. Applicant's arguments filed February 4, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant is still considered to be interpreting Allread et al too narrowly. Allread et al clearly shows the couplings including the pipe extensions 35 and 33 to be made of metal. Also, the collar 40 which holds the extensions together is made of metal. Thus, Allread et al does disclose that the couplings are made of metal. The extent to which the couplings are metallic is considered to be a matter of obvious choice, as one of ordinary skill in the art would certainly be able to use the seals or not, with varying degrees of success.

2. It is also pointed out here that to make the couplings entirely of metal would reduce the effectiveness of the couplings. Without the rubber seals, there would certainly be some amount of leakage of the fluid being transported through the refrigeration system. Thus, non-metallic seals are needed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William E. Tapolcai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4814. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs., 6:30 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl J. Tyler can be reached on (571) 272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3744

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William E. Tapolcai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3744

William E. Tapolcai
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3744

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February 20, 2008